

THE CLASSIFICATION SOCIETY BIBLIOGRAPHY PROJECT¹

✓ W. Wayne Moss²

Recent and growing interest in the principles and methods of classification has resulted in a rapid proliferation of diverse literature on the subject, and the appearance of a society which addresses itself to general problems of classification. The Classification Society, founded in 1964, has a European and North American branch, and a total current membership of about 500. Although about one-fifth of its members are biologists (including anatomists, bacteriologists, botanists, ecologists, entomologists, and parasitologists), the Society strives for a multidisciplinary approach, and fields such as anthropology, economics, geography, geology, library science, linguistics, mathematics, medical sciences, psychology, sociology, statistics, urban planning, etc., are represented. The Society holds annual branch meetings, publishes a bulletin, is investigating publication of its own journal, and has initiated a bibliographic service for its members.

The bibliography project was begun under the initial guidance of T. J. Crovello, as a result of the realization of a real need for an interdisciplinary awareness of common problems and approaches. It is our hope that the project will aid members in keeping up with current literature and, more importantly, help to provide the spark that often accompanies introduction to a viewpoint and methodology that originates outside of one's usual sphere of thought. For example, the problems faced by a linguist in his attempts to trace the evolution of a language are remarkably similar to those encountered by a phyletically-oriented biologist, and their analogous efforts can prove mutually stimulating. Unfortunately, it is at present unlikely that a biologist would be at all familiar with the literature of linguistics, and vice versa.

A Bibliographic Committee of the Classification Society spent about two years drawing up a list of references dealing with theory and methods of classification. The list was gradually reduced in size, as a result of committee work and feedback from members, to a basic profile of 50 articles. This profile has been submitted to a multidisciplinary information retrieval organization, the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), which also publishes *Current Contents* and the *Science Citation Index*. ISI is providing on a weekly basis punched cards containing articles ("hits") published during that week which cite one or more articles on our profile. The punched cards are being accumulated and at six-month intervals will be computer-sorted, with a list of hits mimeographed and distributed to the members.

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The cost of the service, currently on a 1-year trial basis for North American branch members only, is being borne through a \$3 surcharge on the basic \$3 membership fee.

Members of the Bibliography Committee include T. J. Crovello, B. C. Griffith, J. A. Hendrickson, J. Rubin, F. J. Rohf, R. R. Sokal, and W. W. Moss, Chairman. Individuals wishing information about the Society and its benefits may contact the Secretary, T. J. Crovello, Department of Biology, University of Notre Dame, IN 46556. Membership application forms may be obtained from the Treasurer, L. Orloci, Department of Plant Sciences, University of Western Ontario, London 72, Ontario, Canada.

2.0125 The Classification Society bibliography project.

Abstract.—A list of references, basic to the subject of classification, and a profile comprise a project designed to aid members, through information retrieval procedures, to keep up with the literature, especially through interdiscipline retrieval, and with the rapidly developing science of classification.—W. W. Moss, *Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, 19th & The Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103.*

Descriptors: classification; information storage and retrieval; society affairs; bibliography.

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